

Message Text

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APPROVED BY ARA: RAHURWITCH

INS: J. GREENE (PHONE)

SCA: B. WATSON

L/ ARA: TBOREK

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073688

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: US TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

REF: MEXICO 2563; 2589; 2626

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MOST DAMAGING ASPECT OF NY TIMES ARTICLE, AS FAR AS MEXICO IS CONCERNED, IS THAT RELATING TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF RETURNEES TO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY WITH THE COOPERATION OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. THIS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IMPROPER AS WELL AS UNHELPFUL FOR USG TO COMMENT PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY ON GOM POLICY IN THIS MATTER.

3. EMBASSY MAY EXPRESS TO MOYA PALENCIA USG DISAPPOINT-
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MENT THAT PROMINENT US NEWSPAPER CHOSE TO PUBLISH MISLEADING ARTICLE DISCREDITING SOME OFFICIALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. (INS ADVISES THAT ALLEGATIONS THAT AIR RETURNEES CAN PAY TO BE RETURNED TO TIJUANA ARE UNSUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE.) MOYA SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED THAT SPECIAL STUDY GROUP FORMED TO INVESTIGATE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN ALIENS ILLEGALLY IN US CEASED TO EXIST AS AN OFFICIAL ENTITY AFTER SUBMITTING ITS REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT IN JANUARY 1973. EMBASSY SHOULD ADD THAT ALL INTERESTED USG AGENCIES REMAIN CONCERNED AT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ILLEGAL INFLUX WHICH CAUSES DIFFICULT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS.

FINALLY, EMBASSY MIGHT EXPRESS ITS REGRETS THAT AUTHOR OF ARTICLE SAW FIT TO MENTION NAME OF A FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A CRITICAL CONTEXT.

4. CONCERNING COURT RULING ON SOME "GREEN CARD" COMMUTERS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF MEXICO'S 2626, INS HAS RECEIVED COPY OF RATHER LENGTHY AND CONFUSING COURT ORDER AND WILL REQUIRE SOME TIME TO OBTAIN COURT CLARIFICATION OF EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS. IN MEANTIME, INS BELIEVES ORDER DOES NOT APPLY TO DAILY COMMUTERS BUT ONLY TO SEASONAL WORKERS. DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE EMBASSY AS SOON AS CLARIFICATION OBTAINED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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